

The Washington Post reported on the [National Security Subcommittee investigation](#) which found that Afghan warlords and insurgents are extorting protection payments from the American contractors and subcontractors who transport goods and materials to U.S. troops throughout Afghanistan.

[From the Washington Post:](#)

The U.S. military is funding a massive protection racket in Afghanistan, indirectly paying tens of millions of dollars to warlords, corrupt public officials and the Taliban to ensure safe passage of its supply convoys throughout the country, according to congressional investigators.

The security arrangements, part of a \$2.16 billion transport contract, violate laws on the use of private contractors, as well as Defense Department regulations, and "dramatically undermine" larger U.S. objectives of curtailing corruption and strengthening effective governance in Afghanistan, a report released late Monday said.

The report describes a Defense Department that is well aware that some of the money paid to contractors winds up in the hands of warlords and insurgents. Military logisticians on the ground are focused on getting supplies where they are needed and have "virtually no understanding of how security is actually provided" for the local truck convoys that transport more than 70 percent of all goods and materials used by U.S. troops. Alarms raised by prime trucking contractors were met by the military "with indifference and inaction," the report said.

The findings of this report range from sobering to shocking," Rep. John F. Tierney (D-Mass.) wrote in an introduction to the 79-page report, titled "Warlord, Inc.: Extortion and Corruption Along the U.S. Supply Chain in Afghanistan."

The transport contract "has fueled warlordism, extortion, corruption, and maybe even funded the enemy," Tierney said Tuesday in a House subcommittee hearing on the issue. "U.S. taxpayer dollars are feeding a protection racket in Afghanistan that would make Tony Soprano proud."

NPR's show *All Things Considered* [recapped the "shocking report."](#)